

Ser. No. 09/913320 - Claims as amended May 5, 2004

1 - 12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A device for evaporating samples in sample vessels, each of said vessels being provided with at least one filling opening, said device comprising holding means for simultaneously holding several sample vessels, ~~and~~ connection means ~~comprising plural channels directly~~ connectable to the filling openings, by way of which the filling openings of the sample vessels individually or in groups whereby the sample vessels are hermetically connectable to means for producing a vacuum and thereby may be evacuated,

the connection means comprising at least one connection plate which is sealingly pressable onto the filling openings of the sample vessels, or is suctioned by the vacuum, and which is provided with connection paths for connecting the filling openings to the connection of the means for producing a vacuum,

the connection plate comprising longitudinal channels which extend from its lower side, directed towards the sample vessels, of the connection plate and which are placeable aligned onto the filling openings,

the longitudinal channels extending through the connection plate up to an upper side distant to the lower side, wherein the upper side is provided with a least one recess which communicates with the longitudinal channels, and

baffles formed between the exit opening of the longitudinal channels and the recess so as to prevent reflux of condensate into the sample vessels.

14. (currently amended) A device according to claim 13, ~~wherein the device comprises~~ further comprising drive means for producing a vortex movement, ~~and the said connection means comprise flexible components being flexible~~ so that the holding means and the sample vessels are movable independently of the means for producing a vacuum.

15 - 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A device according to claim ~~18~~ 13, wherein the connection plate ~~compresses~~ comprises a connection opening which communicates with a deepening the recess and which is connectable ~~or connected to the connection~~ the means for producing a vacuum.

20. (Currently amended) A device according to claim ~~18~~ 13, wherein the connection means comprise a sealing plate which for sealing the ~~deepening~~ recess is placeable onto the connection plate.

21. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 20, wherein the sealing plate is ~~formed heatable, and that the sealing plate is manufactured of a transparent material, in particular of glass~~ made of transparent heat-resistant glass.

22. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 20, wherein the sealing plate and/or the connection plate comprise aligning means for centering and firmly holding the connection plate with respect to the holding means.

23. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 13, wherein the holding means and/or the connection means are adaptable to a differing number and size of sample vessels; ~~in particular are exchangeable~~.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (New) A device according to claim 13, wherein the level of the exit opening lies above the level of the base of the recess.

26. (New) A device for evaporating samples in sample vessels, each of said vessels being provided with at least one filling opening, said device comprising

holding means for simultaneously holding several sample vessels,

connection means connectable to the filling openings, by means of which the filling openings of the sample vessels individually or in groups are hermetically connectable to means for producing a vacuum and thereby may be evacuated,

wherein the connection means connected to the filling openings are connected directly via tubing to the means for producing a vacuum.